

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7511
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EWWT EG
SUBJECT: BOYCOTT: PASSAGE OF BLACKLISTED SHIPS THROUGH
SUEZ CANAL

REF: (A) STATE 75212 (NOTAL), (B) CAIRO 9344,
(C) CAIRO 9455

1. GHANDI EL HINDI, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOUR PUBLIC-SECTOR
SHIPPING AGENCIES THAT HANDLE BUNKERING AND PROVISIONING
OF SHIPS TRANSITING CANAL, TOLD AMCONSUL PORT SAID MARCH 30
THAT GOE HAS NO PUBLICLY STATED POLICY CONCERNING PASSAGE
OF SHIPS CARRYING BOYCOTTED CARGOES, COMING FROM OR GOING
TO ISRAEL, OR ON BOYCOTT LIST. EVERY SHIP'S MANIFEST,
SHOWING PROVENANCE AND DESTINATION OF CARGOES, IS
PRESENTED TO OFFICE OF WAR EFFORT (WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE
RESPONSIBILITY, INTER ALIA, OF CARRYING OUT BOYCOTT OFFICE
RULINGS) WHICH HAS AUTHORITY TO BLOCK BLACKLISTED SHIPS,
CONFISCATE BOYCOTTED CARGOES, OR LIMIT SERVICES PROVIDED.
ACCORDING TO EL HINDI, OFFICE OF WAR EFFORT HAS IN FACT
ISSUED NO SUCH ORDER SINCE REOPENING OF CANAL, AND SHIPPING
AGENCIES HAVE NOT TREATED BOYCOTTED VESSELS INVIDIOUSLY.
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2. SUBSEQUENTLY, AMCONSUL SPOKE TO MICHEL NAIM, DIRECTOR
OF DAMANHOUR SHIPPING AGENCY, WHO PRESENTED DIFFERENT
PICTURE. BLACKLISTED SHIPS MAY TRANSIT CANAL AND THERE
ARE NO CONFISCATIONS NOW AS THERE WERE BEFORE 1967, BUT
ACCORDING TO NAIM, SERVICES ARE LIMITED. WATER AND BUN-
KERS ARE PROVIDED ONLY SUFFICIENT TO REACH NEAREST PORT
OUTSIDE EGYPT WHERE SUCH ITEMS OBTAINABLE. OFFICIALLY

STORES ARE NOT PROVIDED, THOUGH NAIM SAYS SHIPS CHANDLERS
SELL SUPPLIES FOR CASH AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE EASILY
BRIBED TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY. AS A MATTER OF PRACTICE,
ACCORDING TO NAIM, VESSELS GOING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN
ISRAELI PORTS (E.G. ASHDAD TO EILAT) TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO
AVOID HAVING TO TAKE ON WATER, BUNKERS, OR SUPPLIES AT
SUEZ CANAL.

3. COMMENT: EL-HINDI WAS CLEARLY DISSEMBLING ABOUT GOE
PRACTICE REGARDING PROVIDING SERVICES, THOUGH HE MAY BE
RIGHT THAT GOE HAS NO PUBLICLY STATED POLICY. NAIM HAS
ALWAYS BEEN FORTHRIGHT WITH AMCONSUL AND HAS PROBABLY
GIVEN AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT.

4. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE SHOULD APPROACH EGYPTIAN
BOYCOTT OFFICE TO OBTAIN MORE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF
GOE POLICY ON LIMITING SERVICES TO BOYCOTTED SHIPS.
EILTS

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